



*Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee*

# information

**NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

**NFLA submits its views on Wylfa new nuclear to Horizon Nuclear – the project will result in adverse local impacts, outweighing its proposed benefits, and it should be cancelled.**

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) Welsh Forum submits today its views to Horizon Nuclear on the proposed development of a new nuclear reactor at Wylfa in Anglesey. It concludes that the adverse local impacts of the project outweigh the potential benefits of it, and the project should be cancelled. (1)

The submission is the first part of the process by Wylfa owner Horizon Nuclear (Hitachi-General Electric) to gain planning approval for the development of a new nuclear power station at Wylfa.

Under the extremely narrow arrangements of the UK Government's national infrastructure planning arrangements, there are very few issues that groups like the NFLA can challenge Horizon Nuclear on with this proposed development. Notwithstanding that, NFLA argue the global electricity market has changed significantly, rapidly and unexpectedly since the UK Government finalised its National Policy Statements on Energy in 2011. Several investment banks and financial and energy research organisations are now predicting an end to centralised utility models and large power stations. If these trends continue, as expected at the current rate, Horizon Nuclear could find itself with stranded assets before the construction of Wylfa Newydd has been completed.

Experience of previous large nuclear new build projects also suggests to the NFLA that such a large construction project on a small island like Anglesey is likely to severely disrupt the local economy. It could, in fact, lead to an increase in unemployment by the time construction is finished. The NFLA submission goes into detail on this, showing how similar previous projects in Anglesey have led to this scenario.

In the submission NFLA note that the Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR) being proposed for Wylfa does not have a good operating record. There are currently *no* ABWRs operating anywhere in the world. In addition, even if the UK's plan to build a deep underground radioactive waste facility goes according to plan (which remains a huge doubt), nuclear waste may need to be stored on the island for the next 200 years. To all intents and purposes Wylfa will become a nuclear dump. There must also be a question mark over whether it is sensible to build a nuclear power station on an island with limited access and egress points, which may one day require the evacuation of 70,000 people in the event of a large-scale emergency.

NFLA also notes there are alternative and more sustainable ways of developing the local economy. These alternatives should be thoroughly investigated as part of any environmental impact assessment process. In this manner, NFLA encourages Anglesey County Borough Council to read its new policy briefing on the development of Local Authority Energy Service Companies as one such alternative. (2) This NFLA report outlines that a new energy renaissance can come out of a determined approach to develop such entities.

NFLA Welsh Forum Co-Chair Councillor Ray Davies said:

"I welcome the NFLA submission to Horizon Nuclear which outlines, under the highly limited manner of public consultation for new nuclear projects, why the project should be cancelled now before billions of public and private money is spent on it. In my view, the deliberate lack of consultation with the Welsh

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people on the issue of nuclear power is totally unacceptable, and it is little surprise that it drives many groups to seek other means to express their views, such as non violent direct action.”

NFLA Welsh Forum Co-Chair Councillor Ed Bridges added:

“The NFLA submission cogently argues that, rather than being a jobs and economic boon to Anglesey, it actually skews wider local employment patterns, whilst having negative impacts on local housing, public services and on a predominantly Welsh speaking area when many non-Welsh speakers will come to work on the island. With the financial problems besetting the Hinkley Point owners, and the international electricity market moving markedly towards a decentralised form of generation, Horizon Nuclear should cancel rather than go ahead with this project. Just last week the former owner of Wylfa, E-on, decided to split into two in order to concentrate on its renewable energy division. Hitachi-GE should do the same, and Anglesey’s Energy Island plans would be much the better for it.”

For more information please contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on 0161 234 3244.

Notes for editors:

- (1) NFLA New Nuclear Monitor 36 on Wylfa B –  
[http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/nuclearmonitor/NFLA\\_New\\_Nuclear\\_Monitor\\_No36.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/nuclearmonitor/NFLA_New_Nuclear_Monitor_No36.pdf)
- (2) NFLA Policy Briefing on the development of Local Authority Energy Service Companies –  
[http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/briefings/A239\\_\(NB125\)\\_Local\\_authority\\_energy\\_trusts.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/briefings/A239_(NB125)_Local_authority_energy_trusts.pdf)

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